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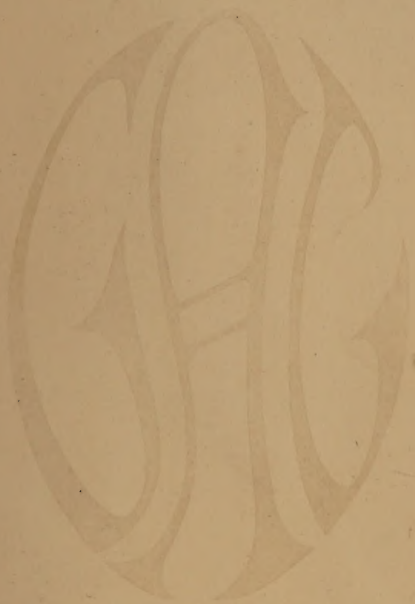




30 June 1918

*Congregational Church of  
Temple Maine*

3545.129



*Old South Church  
Boston Massachusetts*

*Cent-Jan. 27/19*



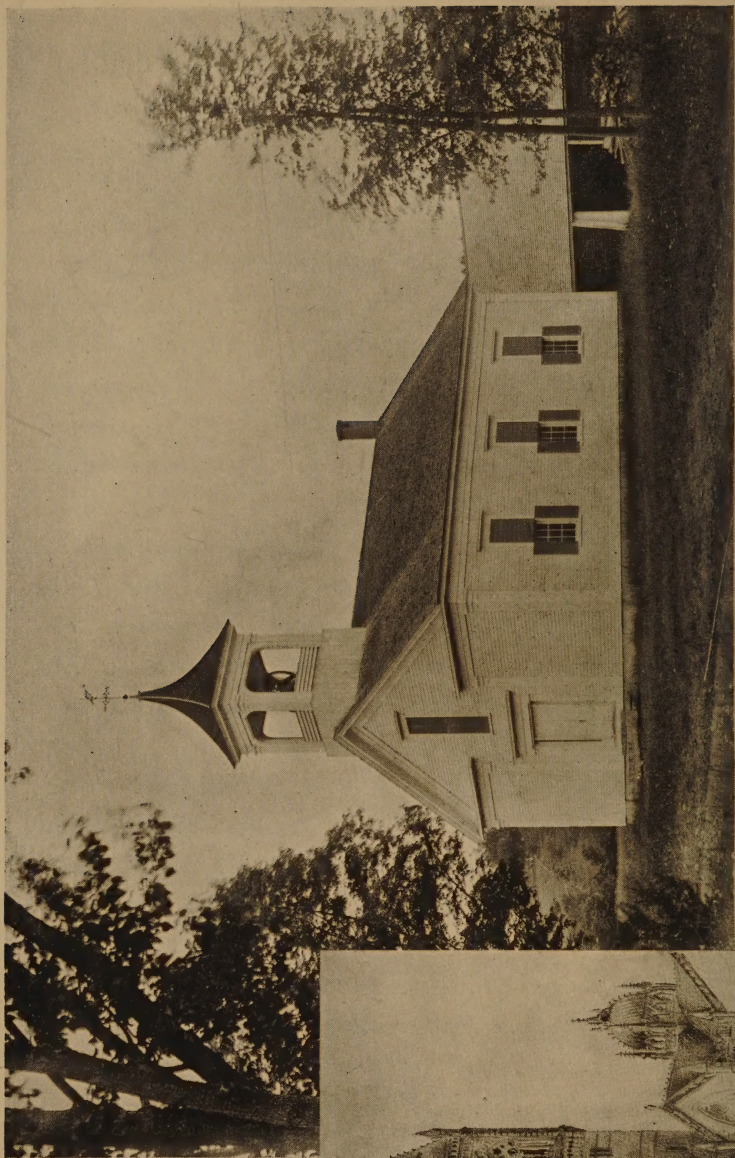


THE PAGES OF THIS LITTLE PAMPHLET are sure to interest every reader whose religious life is rooted in the soil of New England. The picture of the meeting house awakens many precious memories, and one secretly envies the little company who made their pilgrimage over the hill country of Western Maine in the fragrance of early summer. In one of the loveliest sections of this favored region lies the village of Temple. The ruggedness of the hills, the quiet beauty of the valleys and the rigorous climate furnished an environment peculiarly congenial to the young man who rejoiced in his strength and who loved Nature in all her varying moods.

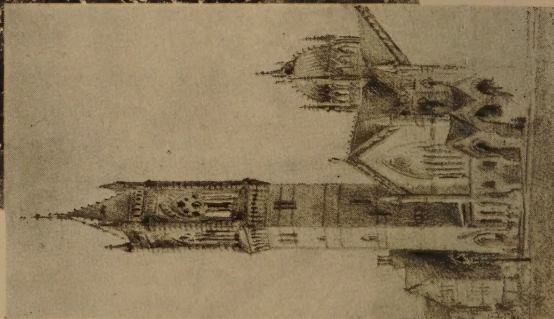
He was called to minister to a sturdy, self-reliant, appreciative but not effusive people to whom religion is more than pious sentiment. Dr. Gordon's frequent references to his first pastorate reveal the depth of the impression which fair country and fine people made upon his mind and heart.

The occasion narrated in these pages, delightful to hosts and guests, is of more than local and personal significance. It admirably illustrates the fraternal fellowship which should exist between city and country church. Each recognizes its debt to the other. This mutual sense of obligation and affection takes us back to the Apostolic doctrine of "many members but one body. And whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

W. H. B.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
*In Temple Maine. Organized 1807*





From the "OLD SOUTH RECORD"  
of February, 1917

THE officers of the Church, knowing of a communication received by Dr. Gordon from the Congregational Church in Temple, Maine, urged his acceptance of the invitation contained therein, and requested his permission to present the letter at the annual Church Meeting, to which request he consented. This communication is as follows:

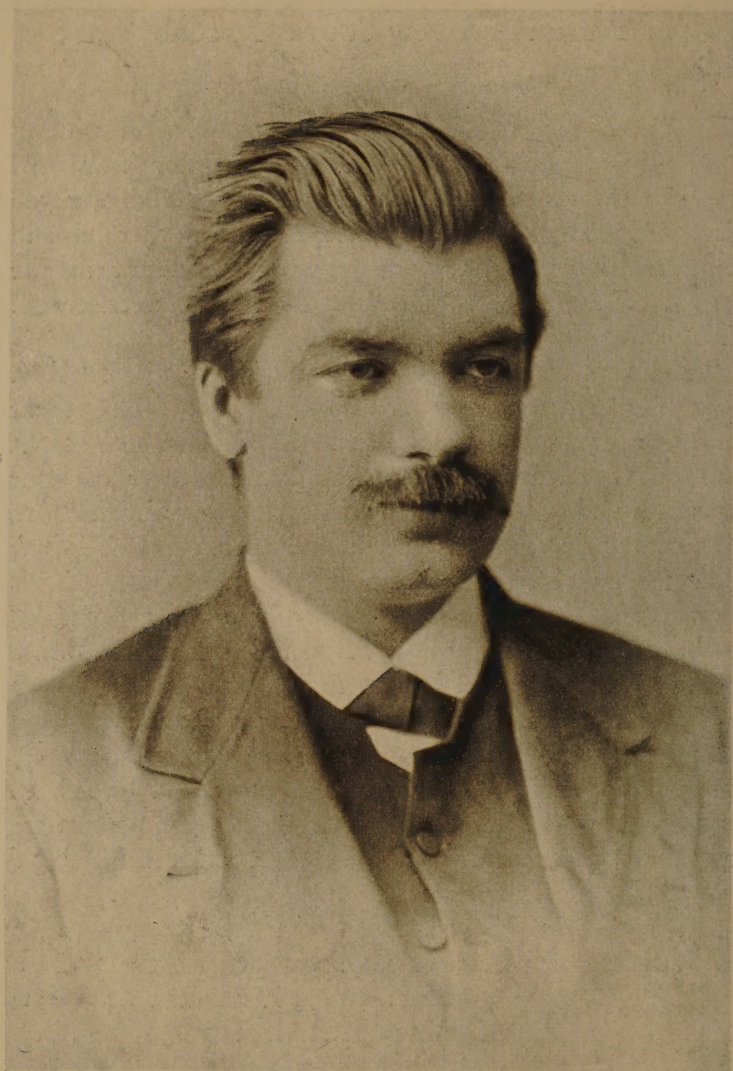
"The Congregational Church in Temple to the Rev. George Angier Gordon sends Greetings. The great influence for all that is pure and holy which you brought into our lives and minds through the power of your presence and your tender and gracious ministrations ever remains with us like a benediction. We feel that your prayers for the uplifting and the upbuilding of this Church and the entire Community 'rise like a fountain' in our behalf night and day. And it is our ardent desire to see you once more face to face.

"We, therefore, members of your first and, as you were pleased to call it, 'well-beloved charge,' do most cordially invite you to come to Temple and preach to us again from the pulpit where for three years you strove so earnestly to teach us the way of Truth and Life."

Temple, Maine, December 3, 1916.

(Signed) LILLA MARY SCALES  
MRS. OLIVER RUSSELL  
MRS. DORA MITCHELL  
MRS. J. A. DERBY  
E. J. KENNISON  
GEORGE F. BLODGETT  
ARTHUR L. SAMPSON  
HELEN SAMPSON SMITH  
MRS. ESTELLE RUSSELL STAPLES  
MR. J. A. DERBY

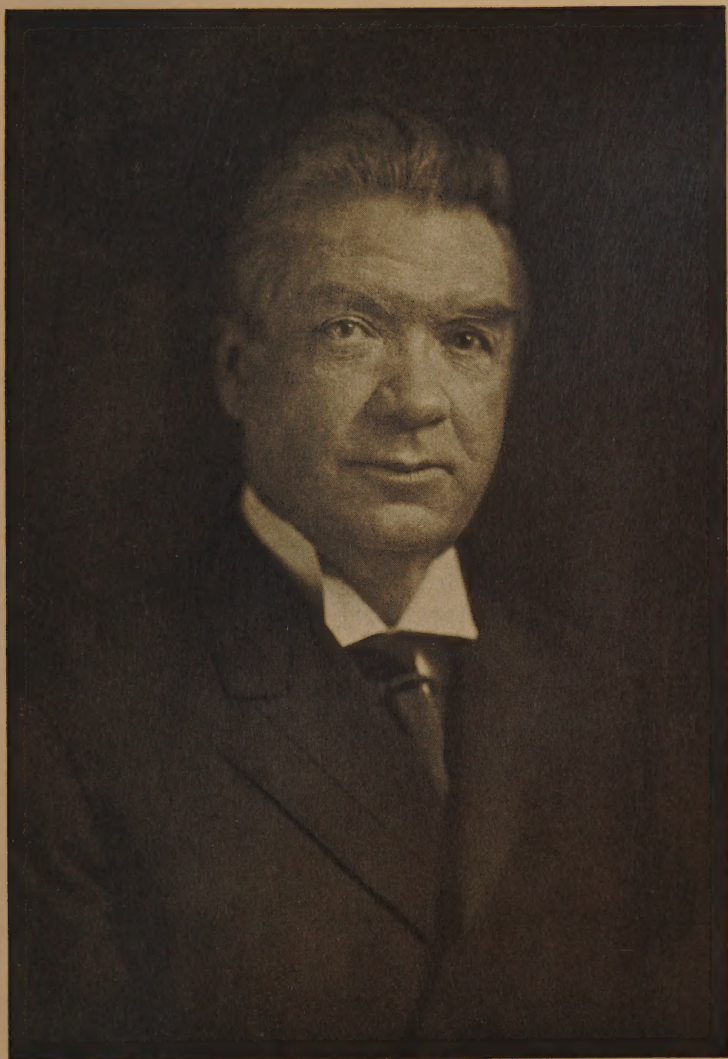
In the presence of sixty other consenting members.



GEORGE A. GORDON

*Ordained and Installed Temple Maine 20 June 1877*





GEORGE A. GORDON

*Minister of the Old South Church from 2 April 1884*

## From the "OLD SOUTH RECORD"

The Board of Deacons proposed the following action at the annual Church Meeting held in January, 1917: *Voted:* That the Old South Church is glad to know of Dr. Gordon's intention to accept the invitation to preach in the Congregational Church in Temple, Maine, in June next, and hereby appoints a committee to be nominated by the Minister to represent the Church on that occasion.

"By our Minister, by this committee, and in this vote, we desire to extend to the Church in Temple, Maine, our warmest fraternal greetings. To no other church are we so closely linked, as we thankfully recall the fruitful service to us of our beloved Minister which began thirty-three years ago. His first service was to your church. There he received his ordination, the fortieth anniversary of which coincides closely with this proposed visit. We have many times heard from his lips tender and grateful references to the Temple Church. It is a beautiful tribute which you have paid him, signed as it is by ten of those to whom he ministered, and endorsed by sixty others, present members of the congregation. We cannot express too strongly our interest and affection for you who have shared with us in this significant ministry.

"This greeting will be accompanied by a slight token of our esteem which we trust will serve to remind you occasionally of our sincere and enduring regard."

The motion was carried enthusiastically.



## ON GOING UP TO TEMPLE

**I**N 1916 an invitation from the Congregational Church in Temple, Maine, came to the Minister of the Old South Church to visit the church in which he was ordained and occupy the pulpit that was the first he filled after graduation from Bangor Theological Seminary. Dr. Gordon accepted the invitation with delight and arranged to have as many of the deacons accompany him as could find it possible to go on the day planned. Circumstances unforeseen at the time of the perfecting of the plans prevented the visit in 1917 and the trip was postponed until a convenient season which came this past summer.

By auto and by train the Minister, and Deacons Johnson, McKee, Morris, Crossett and Whittemore were brought to the charming town of Farmington on Sunday June 30, 1918. Three of the group left Boston on the 28th, spent the night in Kennebunkport and the next day with Dr. Gordon had the glorious cross-country ride from the coast well up into the heart of the state. The glories of nature, the delights of comradeship and the anticipations of the morrow made it a never-to-be-forgotten flight over hill and dale. Arriving in Farmington early Saturday evening there were immediate tokens of hospitality on the part of the local Congregationalists. Sunday morning we worshipped with the Farmington brethren, and after an early dinner started for Temple, four miles away.

Thirty-five years had come and gone since Dr. Gordon had seen the vale, the heights of Blue Mountain and the church of the fathers and mothers in Israel whose descendants were gathering to do him honor. At a leisurely rate of speed we wheeled our way. A detour was purposely made so that he and we might see the site and ruins of the farm house in which he lived while

a missionary pastor; and as the old tamarack tree was scanned and the roses growing in the yard were plucked we had from the lips of the minister a vivid description of the frigidity of the weather he sometimes endured, and a realistic narrative of his victory over his farmer host in a wrestling bout the first evening of his arrival as a preacher of the Gospel.

When the journey was resumed it was to join a caravan of autos, "teams" and conveyances whose occupants were aiming for the church. Old and young, those who had vivid memories of the "theologue" that was and those who had heard of him from their kinsfolk or through the press were all there. Without, Nature was at her best in the golden glories of an early summer afternoon. Inside the church the larger community had met to do honor to a former spiritual guide. Gathered in front of the pulpit were the officials of the two churches. Flowers adorned the simple pulpit. The music came from the congregation and an organ well played. The atmosphere was tense with those vibrations that always come when the heartstrings of spiritual memory and of human fraternity are played upon; and everything was ready for a memorable hour. And it came!

The Farmington pastor, Rev. Paul Gordon Favor, who also ministers to the Temple congregation every Sunday afternoon, conducted the devotions and spoke the formal word of welcome, and he did it with insight and discretion. Simply and sincerely the representative of the laity, Mr. Kennison, followed the pastor with a tribute from the people who remembered the novitiate's pastorate. For reply Dr. Gordon sought the "God of our fathers and our fathers' fathers." And the depths were stirred. The hymn of praise that followed was in tune with the hour; and then came the sermon. The Old South congregation has heard it preached at least



twice, but never in such abbreviated form. For while it was about the parallelisms of the lives of trees at their best and men's careers at their best and though it had drawn some of its color and fire of imagination and memory from the glories of the triumphant ride from the coast to the forest riches of the Androscoggin, it soon began to change into a Book of Chronicles. Road by road, as they traverse and cross the Temple Intervale, the preacher began to go, with deft strokes picturing the sort of good folk he used to know in house after house that made up his congregation. Tears and smiles came at the waving of the mystic wand of memory. Nor did the preacher inhibit disclosures of his own callowness and the way in which he got wisdom sitting at the feet of the fine Yankee folk who then as now tilled the farms, cut the timber and did the trading of the community.

Following the sermon Dr. Gordon commented on the fact that he was not alone; that he had with him five of his six deacons representing the church and acting for it in what to them and to the Old South Church was a privileged opportunity to make evident the fellowship of the Congregational churches, urban and rural; and he then called upon Mr. Arthur Johnson to speak in behalf of the Old South Church. Mr. Johnson said:

"It is a privilege indeed, as you must realize, for us to come up here with Dr. Gordon and meet you in this beautiful spot where he began his ministerial career.

"Your presence here in such numbers, filling this church, shows your affection for him, and you can realize to some extent the deep regard the people of the Old South Church have for Dr. Gordon. In directing and upholding the highest ideals in our lives he has been a great power not only in this community and in Greenwich, Conn., but in the Old South Church of Boston,

both by his life and preaching and by his books, which have made him known throughout the world.

"This Church must have many valuable memories, but none deeper or more far-reaching than the fact that Dr. Gordon was ordained here, and on this account alone Temple will ever be a sacred and historic place.

"We all have received a great deal from him, but I am sure that he will agree with me when I say that the people in this community gave much to him while he ministered to them. They all were ready to give him the right hand of fellowship and to encourage him in his work in this his first pastorate. We are thankful, as you are, that we have had him as our minister, and when your Church sent the beautiful letter asking him to come here and preach to you last year he was rejoiced at the thought; and the Old South Church by a unanimous vote agreed to have a committee accompany Dr. Gordon to this service. The letter which you sent, with all the signatures, has been made a part of the records of the Church. I have it here, but will not read it. I do however wish to read to you the vote of the Church, passed at our annual meeting a year ago, when we had hoped to be present last June, but owing to the illness of Dr. Gordon, as you know, we were obliged to defer our coming until this year. [*See page 6.*]

"You will see by this that the Church voted to send a gift to you. On consulting with the members of the Church and congregation it was decided that we wished to have something that would be a permanent remembrance of Dr. Gordon. Therefore, a sum of money was collected, with which we have purchased a \$1000 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ % Liberty Bond, which we desire to have made a permanent fund, to be known as 'The George A. Gordon Fund,' the interest to be used for the maintenance of the Temple Church.

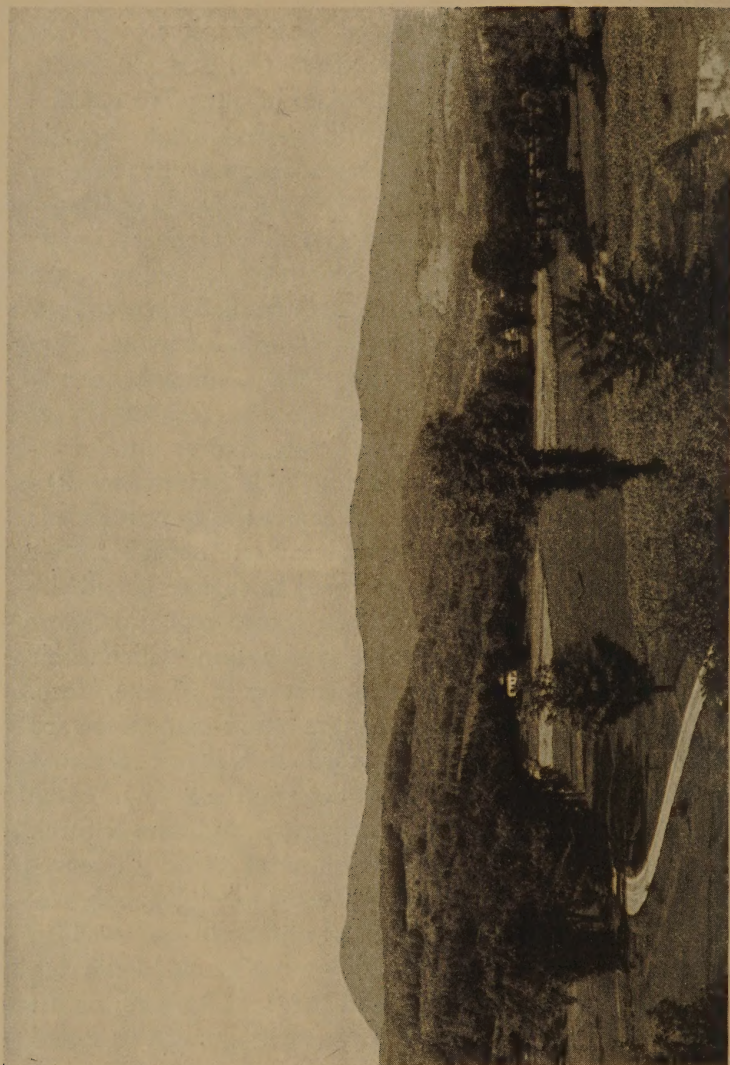


"In behalf of the members of the committee who are present with me, and in behalf of the Old South Church, I herewith present to you this token of our affection and regard, and trust that you will realize that the Old South Church of Boston has ever a deep interest in your welfare."

Following Mr. Johnson's words and act the treasurer of the Temple Church accepted the gift, and in turn presented the Old South Church with framed photographs of the Temple Church and of the Temple interval.

The service closed with the note dominant in the participants' minds that by the transmitted virtues of the family and of the church as they live on in successive generations do communities and commonwealths survive. The aged present had been made to relive their past in terms of service that at least one observer of it in his youth had noted and was glad to register; and the young who were present had been forced to think anew on the roots of patriotism and civilization which their sires had struck down deep in that part of the state. When the service closed the congregation came forward and had the hand clasp and word of reminiscence and welcome that Dr. Gordon was glad to give. Then came the photographing of the clergymen and the church officials, words of farewell, and for the Old South representatives a swift motoring southward with Kennebunkport as the port. There the sky pilot was allowed to anchor in his own roadstead about 9 o'clock, while the diaconal crew sought shelter in an inn for the night. But ere they slept they agreed that the experiences had been memorable and unique — to use a much overworked but still useful word. Bring what the war may in the way of change to any and all included in the party, the trip cannot be forgotten.

G. P. M.



MT. BLUE AND THE TEMPLE INTERVAL



## REV. PAUL GORDON FAVOR'S GREETING

**B**EAUTIFUL little Temple, nestling under the shadow of these majestic hills and mountains, during the last fifty years has sent a goodly number of men into the larger life of the world who have made a name of considerable distinction, but among them all none has attained so high a place in his profession or extended his influence for good so widely as the distinguished minister who has returned to this church today, where forty-one years ago the twentieth of this month he was ordained and installed as pastor. That Dr. Gordon should wish to return after an absence of so many years to the little church where he began what has proved to be a ministry of world-wide significance and power, confirms our belief in the greatness and true humanity of his spirit. It is a matter of deepest gratitude on the part of this people that he who has occupied so notably for a generation one of the most distinguished pulpits in America and who is himself the foremost thinker in the pulpit of Christendom today, has retained through all the years much of his early pastoral interest and affection toward the little church among the mountains of northwestern Maine where he began his great career.

Like Lincoln he has outrun but he has not become ashamed of the obscure friends of his youth and the distinction he has gained has erected no barriers which shut them out from his heart.

Dr. Gordon was not pastor of this church for any extended period, but no man ever went out from Temple, leaving so vivid and enduring a memory and influence for clear thinking and noble living as he. His name, his face, his voice, he himself have never been forgotten here. Few small rural churches have the fortune to cherish and live upon so valuable a memory. This church has ever since Dr. Gordon's pastorate held a high standard of preaching. He made them both appreciative

and critical. They know that they once had the best and they realize that they never had it again! But they remember you, Dr. Gordon, not only for your sermons, but for your universal human trust and demonstrative spirit. They still relate stories which show that you were loved and esteemed as pastor and friend of man no less than you were admired in the pulpit.

But I must not occupy one precious hour with you in further words of welcome and greeting. It is a happy and memorable day for us all, a day to be recalled forever with gratitude and satisfaction. We are deeply moved also that these five busy men of affairs as deacons and representatives of the Old South Church of Boston should turn aside from the larger concerns of life in these strenuous days, and make the long trip from Boston in the interest of a little church which has no claim on you save that of having given you all the years an increasing appreciation and affection. We are not unaware of the honor done us by the great church which you have made still greater during your remarkable pastorate of over thirty years in the coming to us today of you and your deacons upon the forty-first anniversary of your ordination to the Christian Ministry. We would like to say to these deacons of the Old South Church in Boston that the memory of Dr. Gordon's ministry in Temple has been the one greatest inspiration of this church for forty years and has determined the moral and mental and spiritual standards in a very unusual way and further that this occasion will contribute to perpetuate Dr. Gordon's name and influence among generations yet to come.

Now may I ask Deacon Eugene Kennison, who was one of your young men and whose ideas about religion seem to have been shaped by your teaching, to say a further word of welcome in behalf of the church and community.



## DEACON KENNISON'S GREETING

**A**S it falls to me to give a few words of greeting to Dr. Gordon and his deacons that came with him I will say that this church gives you all a most hearty welcome. We have been looking for nearly forty years to see you with us once again. And it gives us great pleasure I assure you that the time has come, and that we can look into your face again. We realize something of what it must mean for these busy men to leave their business to come with you.

How well we remember Dr. Gordon when he came here forty-three years ago at the age of twenty-two! We may almost say he was a boy. What a fine specimen of young manhood he was!

Well does that large class of boys that were in Deacon Wilder's class remember him in the games and sports when the Deacon used to invite the class to his home where Mr. Gordon boarded. If we had the time we could tell many incidents to show how much we remember of those happy days. We remember him as he rode up and down these valleys and over these hills on that splendid gray mare. How we longed to be more like him! What new life he infused into the church, not the church only but all that heard him preach and that included a large territory as the house used to be filled every Sunday.

Friends, how fresh in our minds today after forty-one years is the ordination of Dr. Gordon in this little church so dear to us all, here in Temple. We well remember some of the questions that were asked by members of that council. How some of those answers made the old gentleman from Weld squirm. I think his name was Tappin.

In closing we want to say we all remember Mr. Gordon's foster father, Dr. Angier.

## FROM THE TEMPLE CHURCH

17 JULY, 1918

**T**HE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Temple to the Old South Church in Boston sends greetings. As a church we wish to thank you for your very generous gift to us. Words cannot express the deep sense of obligation we feel toward you, neither can you realize the uplift and encouragement you have given us.

The pastorate of Dr. Gordon was the beginning of better lives to many of us, also an insight into new and better methods of church work which gave us a hold on the church and its work which we have striven to keep up although at times almost ready to give up for lack of resources. We now feel more than ever before that God has blessed and is still blessing our efforts. You must know the joy and help the coming of Dr. Gordon and your deacons has been, assuring us by your presence and words as well as by your gift of the interest you have in us and your fellowship with us. It means a great deal to a little church like ours to have a big brother who has our interest at heart. May the dear God who is Father of us all bless you and your pastor in all things richly is our prayer for you. In behalf of the church,

Yours in Christian love,

Mrs. HELEN M. SMITH, *Clerk*

TEMPLE, July 17, 1918











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